

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /065 W

-----061515 170522Z /17

R 170406Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8305

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EORG, ELAB, SN, JA

SUBJ: FUKUDA LEAVES FOR BANGKOK AFTER PROMISE TO STUDY
TRAINING CENTER

REF: A. SINGAPORE A-91; B. SINGAPORE 3466

1. JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA LEFT FOR BANGKOK AUG 15
AFTER A TWO-DAY VISIT IN SINGAPORE. AS THE DAILY "STRAITS
TIMES" NOTED THE MORNING AFTER HIS DEPARTURE, FUKUDA STRESSED
FRIENDSHIP AND "HEART-TO-HEART" COMMUNICATION WITH ASEAN
AS MUCH AS TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

2. ALTHOUGH THE ENUNCIATION OF THE FUKUDA DOCTRINE IS STILL
TO COME, THE SINGAPOREANS ARE PLEASED WITH THE ATMOSPHERICS
OF THE TRIP. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUMITOMO PETROCHEMICAL
COMPLEX WERE SET DURING PM LEE'S EARLIER TRIP TO TOKYO, BUT
THE INAUGURATION OF THE JOINT COMPANY (REF B) TO SET UP THE
COMPLEX ADDED AN AURA OF SUBSTANCE TO FUKUDA'S VISIT. FUKUDA
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ALSO PROMISED THAT JAPAN WOULD SOON CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY
SURVEY ON A PROPOSED JAPANESE-SINGAPOREAN TECHNICAL TRAINING
CENTER HERE (REF A). AT A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE
MONDAY, FUKUDA SAID THE CENTER, PROPOSED BY THE GOS, WOULD
AID IN THE TRANSFER OF JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY TO OTHER ASIAN
COUNTRIES. "IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SINGAPORE IS LOCATED IN
THE HEART OF ASEAN," SAID FUKUDA, "WE FEEL THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF A TRAINING CENTER HERE WOULD MAKE MORE EFFICIENT SUCH A TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. THAT IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE HAS CONCEIVED THIS PLAN TO WHICH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED".

3. ON OTHER TOPICS, FUKUDA SAID THERE IS NO CONCERN ABOUT THE MARKETABILITY OF THE PETROCHEMICAL PLANTS' PRODUCTS, BECAUSE STUDIES HAD ESTABLISHED THAT DEMAND WOULD BE SUFFICIENT WHEN THE COMPLEX BEGAN PRODUCTION. HE SAID JAPAN WOULD BE HAPPY TO HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDOCHINESE STATES IN ORDER TO EASE TENSIONS IN THE AREA. HE SAID THE QUESTION OF PRIVATE JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN INDIVIDUAL ASEAN COUNTRIES WAS ONE TO BE DECIDED ON THE MERITS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE. THE INITIATIVE FOR BOOSTING JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN ASEAN AS A GROUP MUST COME FROM THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: CONCERNING THE TRAINING CENTER, SINGAPORE'S LOCATION "IN THE HEART OF ASEAN" IS, OF COURSE, IRRELEVANT TO THIS STRICTLY BILATERAL PROJECT. SINGAPORE IS QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE THREE TRAINING CENTERS IT NOW HAS AND IS EAGER FOR MORE (THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS, REPAIR FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE GOS MAY APPROACH US WITH SUCH A PROPOSAL). ONE MAJOR QUESTION THAT FUKUDA DID NOT ADDRESS HERE, AND ONE WHICH THE SINGAPOREANS HOPE WILL BE DEALT WITH IN HIS UPCOMING MAJOR POLICY SPEECH IN MANILA, IS INCREASED ASEAN ACCESS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET. HOLDRIDGE
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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